



OCTOBER 2026

4-H Family News

Washtenaw County



Save the Date! 4-H Recognition Program: Sunday November 1st



We are excited to once again celebrate our 4-H members, 4-H volunteers, and 4-H supporters at our annual 4-H Recognition Program on Sunday November 1st from 2-4 pm at the Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds. Doors open at 1:30 pm and this event is open to all! Popcorn and beverages will be served and we ask our families to bring a dessert if able.

During this special annual event, we will recognize the I Dare You Award winner, 4-H Leader of the Year, Angel Award, Friend of 4-H, Club Spirit, and several other county-level awards & recognition. Invitations for winners will be going out in the next few weeks, but we encourage all 4-H members to attend and cheer on your friends, volunteers, and community supporters.

UPCOMING EVENTS & MEETINGS:

National 4-H Week

October 4th -10th

Livestock & Dairy Committee Meeting

October 8th at 7 pm at the MSU Extension Office

Horse Board/Association Meeting

October 27th at 6:30/7 pm at the MSU Extension Office

Still Projects Committee Meeting

October 27th at 6:30 pm on Zoom

4-H Recognition Program

November 1st 1:30 – 4 pm at the Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds

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COUNTY 4-H NEWS

Re-Enroll for the 2026-27 4-H Program Year!



The new 2026-27 4-H Program year has begun and it's time to start re-enrolling your family in [4-H Online](#)! Everyone has to re-enroll for the new program year, whether or not you participated last year. We recommend enrolling as soon as possible so you don't miss any important communications. Club leaders should make sure families are re-enrolled before they begin participating in 4-H activities.

If you have don't want to enroll online or need a paper enrollment form, please contact 4-H staff or stop by our MSU Extension Office between 9 am – 12 pm or 1-4 pm Monday-Friday.

Help Promote Washtenaw County 4-H During National 4-H Week Oct 4-10th

National 4-H Week is coming up quickly and we wanted to give 4-H members and 4-H Clubs ideas to help promote the 4-H program in their local communities. Here are some ideas of ways you can promote 4-H:

- Write an op-ed for your local paper to tell your story of how 4-H helped make you beyond ready. National 4-H Council has provided [templates](#) for both youth and alumni to help you.
- Post flyers in public locations in your community.
- Host a community service event in your county
- Set up a store-front display or informational booth in a business, library, or school.
- Thank your 4-H club leader and other 4-H county volunteers with thank you notes.
- Ask if you can lead the pledge at a local township meeting.



Washtenaw County 4-H Youth Show Superintendents Applications Open



Interested in taking on a role as a superintendent at the 4-H Youth Show? We are looking for folks who are passionate about a project area and providing positive educational opportunities for youth at the Washtenaw County 4-H Youth Show.

If you're interested, please look over [superintendent responsibilities and the letter of intent](#). We ask that all letters of intent (from new applicants and existing superintendents) be returned to the office by November 2, 2026. There are plenty of opportunities available, including animal and non-animal barn specific superintendents!

Questions? Please contact Amy, harr1976@msu.edu.



COUNTY 4-H NEWS

Interested in Joining our Washtenaw County 4-H Hippology and/or Horse Judging Teams?

Washtenaw County 4-H is looking for registered 4-H members (ages 5-19) to join our Hippology Team and/or Horse Judging Team! Both events at MSU don't have specific dates yet but are usually in mid to late March. Hippology is the study of all horse-related knowledge, including judging, anatomy, breeds, colors, care, equipment, tack, health and welfare, and riding disciplines. Horse Judging is your opportunity to become the judge and place horses based on conformation (halter) and performance (riding).



Both teams compete against other Michigan counties and senior divisions can qualify for the national contest. Cost is roughly \$23 per member, per team. Optional study sessions will start in early February.

If you are interested in participating on both/either teams, please contact Angela Oakman by January 31, 2027 - email: angela_oakman@yahoo.com cell: 734-395-9714 (call or text). The Practice Horse Judging Workshop (TBD on the date of this event but it is usually in early February) is highly recommend for anyone participating on the Horse Judging team. [Check out the MSUE website for more information.](#)

Washtenaw County 4-H'ers Receive Awards and Scholarships at Washtenaw County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting



At this year's Washtenaw County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting, we had three 4-H Alums and 1 current Washtenaw County 4-H'er received awards and scholarships. Saline 4-H Farmers Alumni Stephanie Bushey and current Country Expressions 4-H member Grace Weidmayer received the Outstanding Involvement in Agriculture 4-H, followed by Saline 4-H Farmers Alumni Izzy Garcia who received the Washtenaw County Young

Farmers Scholarship and William Rogers who also received the Young Farmers Scholarship and the Washtenaw County Farm Bureau Scholarship. William Rogers also received the Washtenaw County Farm Bureau Scholarship.

These scholarships and awards are open to any youth whose parent or parents are regular members of Washtenaw County Farm Bureau. The applications are due in the summer (check each award for details). Visit the [Washtenaw County Farm Bureau Website](#) for more information if you are interested in applying for the next award cycle.





COUNTY 4-H NEWS

Washtenaw County 4-H Ada May and Webb Harwood Scholarship & Other Scholarships for 4-H Members

We are now accepting applications for the Ada May and Webb Harwood Memorial Scholarship. The applications is now available on our website and due on December 1st. This scholarship is for youth who have participated in either animal science or home economics projects during their time in 4-H or FFA. Youth show be incoming freshman or higher continuing their education at an accredited institution of high education. Check out the application for the full list of qualifications.



We also want to highlight other scholarship outside of our county that may be of interest to 4-H members.

- [Michigan Agri-Business Association \(MABA\) Educational Trust \(Deadline is SOON October 1st\)](#)
- [MAFE Fair/Festival Scholarship \(Deadline 11/2\)](#)
- [Michigan State University 4-H Scholarship \(Deadline 11/1\)](#)

Questions? Please contact Jenny Speyer, 4-H Program Instructor at speyerje@msu.edu.

Spark & Share Summit 2027: Accepting Session Proposals



Session proposals are currently being sought for the third annual 4-H Spark and Share Summit. The one-day workshop is designed to bring together 4-H volunteers, teen leaders and 4-H staff from across the state to share ideas, explore interests, and ignite sparks in a variety of hands-on activities. The summit is being hosted by the Southeast Region of MAE4-HYS in Frankenmuth on March 13th, 2027 and is open to participants statewide.

Last year we had two youth from Washtenaw teach sessions, and they all had a great time! This is a great opportunity for volunteers and 4-H teens!

Please consider teaching a session and submit your proposal by October 23rd [here](#). Previous surveys indicated high interest in learning more about the following topics: Hands-on make and take crafts/projects, Livestock and Animal Science (Marketing Your Animal, Biosecurity), Ag in the Classroom, STEM, Civic Engagement, Gardening, Successful Fundraising, Club Financial Management, Club Year Planning, & Club Engagement.

Jenny is a member of the planning committee for this event so if you have questions, please reach out to speyerje@msu.edu.



COUNTY 4-H NEWS

Run for a Washtenaw County 4-H Committee Officer Position!



We need more 4-H youth to use their voices and shape our program at our Washtenaw County 4-H Committee meetings! This is YOUR 4-H program, and we encourage 4-H members run for officer positions on committees relevant to their projects and interests.

Our Washtenaw County 4-H Committees include Advisory Council, Horse, Livestock & Dairy Committee, Small Animal Committee, and Still Projects Committee.

Youth interested must be enrolled 4-H members prior to being elected. **Adults interested in serving on a committee must be Gold level volunteers prior to being elected.** If you are interested in running for an elected position on any of the following committees, please contact Amy Harris harr1076@msu.edu or Jenny Speyer at speyerje@msu.edu for Still Projects Committee.

Check out the list below of the requirements for each position and when elections are held:

- Advisory Council: Elections will be held on January 14th and must be 4-H age 14 years old to be eligible for an officer position. This committee focus on promoting 4-H, fundraising, scholarships, awards and planning the 4-H Recognition Program, and more.
- Horse Association: See the article on the next page of the newsletter for a full description of Horse Board roles.
- Livestock & Dairy Committee: Elections will be held on October 8th, and 4-H members must be 4-H age 14 years old to be eligible for an officer position. Youth need to have a nomination form signed by their 4-H leader. Livestock and Dairy Committee's goals include developing and support 4-H livestock and dairy projects, providing opportunities for youth and adult leadership development, and to encourage, educate, and support 4-H membership in raising, producing, and marketing a good quality livestock project.
- Small Animal Committee: Elections will be held on November 19th, and 4-H members must be 4-H age 14 years old to be eligible for an officer position. Small Animal Committee's goals are similar to the Livestock & Dairy Committee but focus on Small Animal projects including goats, poultry, caviar, rabbits, dogs, cats, and llamas.
- Still Project Committee: Elections will be held on October 27th, and 4-H members must be 4-H age 13 years old to be eligible for an officer position. Still Project Committee's goals are to oversee the planning and execution of still projects judging at the Washtenaw 4-H Youth Show, Washtenaw 4-H still projects workshops, and other Washtenaw 4-H still projects related events, provide Washtenaw 4-H youth with leadership opportunities as members of the Committee, and advise Washtenaw MSUE 4-H staff in making Still Projects related decisions.



COUNTY 4-H NEWS

Run for a Washtenaw County 4-H Horse Board Positions!

Are you interested in being on the County Horse Board? Come to the next meeting on October 27th at 7pm at the MSU Extension Office. There we will be finishing up nominations as well as electing the next Horse Board. Your 4-H age must be 13+ years old for each role unless specified. The roles include:



- **President:**
 - Runs the board, lead meetings, etc.
- **Vice President:**
 - Assists the president, takes on roles of board members that are not present
- **Treasurer:**
 - Deals with the money and reporting on it
- **Reporting Secretary:**
 - Takes notes in the meetings and makes the meeting minutes
- **Corresponding Secretary:**
 - Manages social media and communicatory things
- **Member at Large:**
 - Board member with no specified role, great role for those just starting and also to take a larger role in the community
- **Junior Member at Large (10-12 years old):**
 - Open to 4-H members between 4-H Age 10 and 12 years old, same duties as Member at Large

Washtenaw County Farm Bureau Treat of Agriculture on October 20th at 6 pm



Don't miss Washtenaw County Farm Bureau's super fun Treat of Agriculture on October 20th from 6-7:30 pm at the Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds Building D. This is a FREE Trick-or-Treat Style Event open to kids 12 and under. Enjoy Michigan Agriculture Products instead of traditional Trick-or-Treat Candy. Treats are guaranteed to the first 250 children.

Come in costume, FREE photo booth, & fun Halloween games. Washtenaw County 4-H will be there at a table and we know lots of our 4-H families will be volunteering at this fun event.



STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Preparing youth to be Beyond Ready: Building leadership skills through 4-H



Beyond Ready

4-H provides youth with opportunities to develop leadership skills in meaningful and age-appropriate ways. Whether leading a club activity, serving as an officer, mentoring younger members, or helping plan an event, youth practice communication, teamwork, decision-making and responsibility.

Volunteers can support leadership development by encouraging youth voice, sharing responsibilities and creating opportunities for members to take ownership of their learning. Every leadership experience helps young people build confidence and prepares them to contribute in school, work and their communities.

How are you helping youth grow as leaders this year?

#BeyondReady

October 3: MSU Tollgate Pumpkinfest

Tollgate Farm, Novi

Pumpkinfest is a family-friendly event at MSU Tollgate Farm. Enjoy a harvest celebration of wagon rides, u-pick pumpkin patch, cider, donuts, food, music and activities on the farm.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/pumpkinfest-2026

October 4-10: National 4-H Week

Nationwide

For over 100 years, 4-H has inspired families, shaped careers, and impacted communities. During this week, celebrate the impact of 4-H in various ways including Go Green Monday, Wheels Up Wednesday, Thankful Thursday and Stay Connected Saturday!

www.canr.msu.edu/events/national-4-h-week

October 7: Adulting 101—Mental Health Toolkit: Everyday Skills and Resources to Help Care for Your Mental Health

Online

This Adulting 101 session will equip participants with practical tools to support their mental health and emotional wellbeing.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/msu-extension-adulting-101-mental-health-toolkit-everyday-skills-and-resources-to-help-care-for-your-mental-health

October 27: 4-H Volunteer Webinar – Infusing Positive Youth Development into Your 4-H club

Online

Explore simple strategies that foster belonging, build developmental relationships, encourage youth voice, and create engaging experiences where young people can develop confidence, competence, character and caring.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-infusing-positive-youth-development-into-your-4-h-club

October 31: 4-H Animal Science Fall Fest

Anthony Hall, East Lansing

Youth will have the chance to learn about a variety of animal science topics, disciplines and careers from industry experts and Department of Animal Science staff. Open to youth ages 12-19. **Register by October 15!**

www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-animal-science-fall-fest-2026





STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS

Nominate a deserving 4-H'er for Michigan 4-H Animal Science Sportsperson of the Year!

Do you know someone who displayed extraordinary sportsmanship at a recent 4-H animal science program? Perhaps at a club meeting, clinic or the county fair? Nominate them for the 2026 Michigan 4-H Animal Science Sportsperson of the Year Award!

This annual award recognizes one youth member and one adult 4-H leader who exemplify the definition of sportsmanship and have gone above and beyond to lend a helping hand to those around them during animal science programs. Nominations are due **October 15**. You can find full details, including the nomination form, at: www.canr.msu.edu/resources/competitive_event_resources.



Join the 4-H Future Squad!

Ready to level up your future? Youth ages age 12–19 are invited to join the 4-H Future Squad, a virtual 4-H club focused on life skills, career readiness, financial literacy, Adulging 101 topics and more.

4-H Future Squad was inspired by Generation Z youth seeking life skill development for a better future for themselves and their peers. This will be the sixth year of the program, which is designed to help youth feel prepared and ready to take on the future and adulthood.

The club will meet twice a month October 2026 through May 2027, virtually through Zoom. Meetings will involve team-building and will cover areas such as money management, career readiness, stress management, goal setting, time management,

communication, politics, food safety and basic household tasks.

Meeting dates will take place on a variety of days of the week; dates and times will be communicated via email and on the program website. Youth can attend as many of these dates as they wish. 4-H Future Squad can be a primary or secondary club. Learn more and complete the interest form at: www.canr.msu.edu/4-h-future-squad/.

4-H scholarships available!

Outstanding Michigan 4-H members who are involved at county, regional, state, national or international levels are eligible to apply for Michigan 4-H scholarships to help fund their college experience.

A number of scholarship opportunities exist, ranging in value from \$500 to \$10,000 (over the course of four years). Each scholarship has specific eligibility, be sure to read the requirements to see if you qualify. All applications are due by November 1.

Learn more and access applications materials at: www.canr.msu.edu/4_h_scholarships_and_recognition_program/4_h_scholarships.



Sun	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thur	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8 ELECTIONS 7pm - Livestock & Dairy Meeting	9	10
NATIONAL 4-H WEEK						
11	12	13	14  6:30 pm - 4-H Ambassadors Meeting	15	16	17
18	19	20 6-7:30 - Treat of Ag @ WFCG	21 	22	23  Deadline for 4-H Spark and Share Summit Proposals	24
MSU Extension Office closed						
25  1 Recognition Program Doors open 1:30 pm at WFCG	26	27 ELECTIONS 6:30 pm - Still Projects Comm. Meeting 6:30/7 pm - Horse Assn Meeting	28 	29	30	31 HAPPY HALLOWEEN 

Have a club event you want to highlight? Send it to Jenny and we will try our best to add it here!